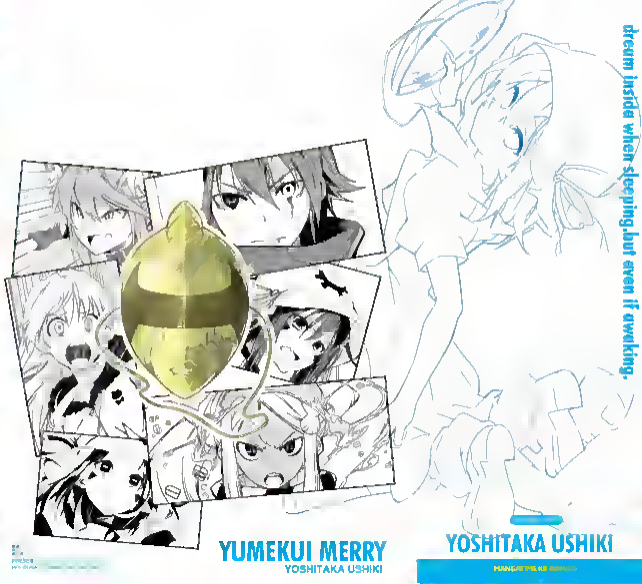
#17

YOSHITAKA USHIKI

夢喰いメリー #17

牛木義隆

YOSHITAKA USHIKI



YUMEKUI MERRY

YOSHITAKA USHIKI

YOSHITAKA USHIKI

LOOK, I HAVE TO BE IN BED BY 9 OR THE OLD MAN'S GONNA BLOW HIS TOP AT ME AGAIN.
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE HECK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
DREAMS? REAL WORLD?
I GOT THAT PART!
YOU DO!?
JUST LISTEN! YOU PEOPLE LIVE IN THE "REAL WORLD"...
Hmm...
BUT I COULDA SWORN I'D FALLEN ASLEEP WHILE I WAS WATCHING A FORWARD MAN VIDEO..
What...?
HOW MUCH OF WHAT I JUST SAID GOT THROUGH?
BASICALLY, YOU KIDNAPPED ME, RIGHT?
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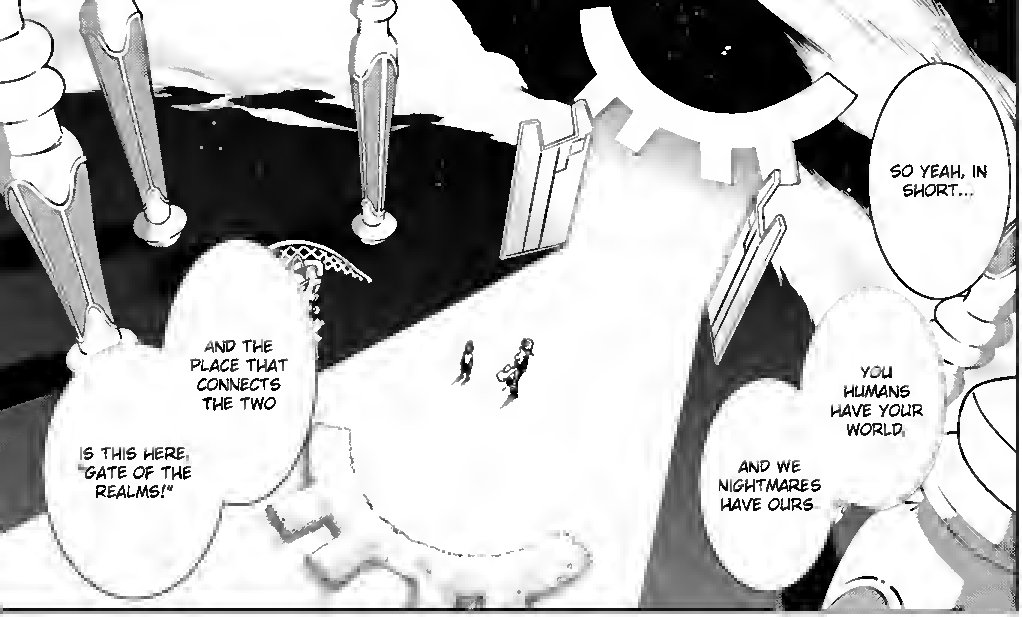
REM99 Since You Came


SO YEAH, IN SHORT...
YOU HUMANS HAVE YOUR WORLD,
AND WE NIGHTMARES HAVE OURS
AND THE PLACE THAT CONNECTS THE TWO
IS THIS HERE, "GATE OF THE REALMS!"

WHOAAA...

AND I'M THE ONE WHO GUARDS THIS PLACE
THE GATEKEEPER "SHEEP", MERRY NIGHTMARE!

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO JUST BE A PLACE YOU PASS THROUGH. NOBODY'S EVER ACTUALLY STOPPED HERE OF ALL PLACES UNTIL NOW.
FROM HERE, HUMANS TRAVEL THROUGH THIS REALM
AND INTO VARIOUS NIGHTMARES' YARDS
BUT SOMETHING'S WEIRD.
THIS IS THE DOORWAY THAT LEADS INTO THE DREAM WORLD
SO YEAH, YOU'RE THE FIRST HUMAN I'VE EVER MET.

I WAS GONNA GET 10,000 POINTS FOR STACKING THEM UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL!
DON'T YELL LIKE THAT!
WAIT, HO!
HUH? OH, SORRY...
コラーゴッ
HEY!!
バラッ
UGH, YOU SCRAMBLED 'EM ALL UP!
カチャ
カチャ
THESE KEYS ARE SUPER IMPORTANT! DON'T TOUCH THEM WITHOUT ASKING!
BLEH KILLJOY
WHAT'S THE HARM IN PLAYING A LITTLE? THERE'S A WHOLE MOUNTAIN OF THEM HERE
UH... I'D PUT THIS ONE HERE...
YOU "PUT IT"... WAIT.

AND THEY HAVE SPECIFIC SPOTS?!
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU'VE MEMORIZED WHERE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE KEYS WERE?!

OBVIOUSLY.

HOLY CRAP...
I BET YOU'RE A MONSTER AT CARD GAMES...
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
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ポン
...ANYWAY,
WERE YOU LISTENING TO ME, HUMAN?
?
ギュル
I'M NOT JUST "HUMAN"!
MY NAME'S YUMEJI FUJI-WARA!
ドン
LET'S BE FRIENDS!
..YUMEJI.

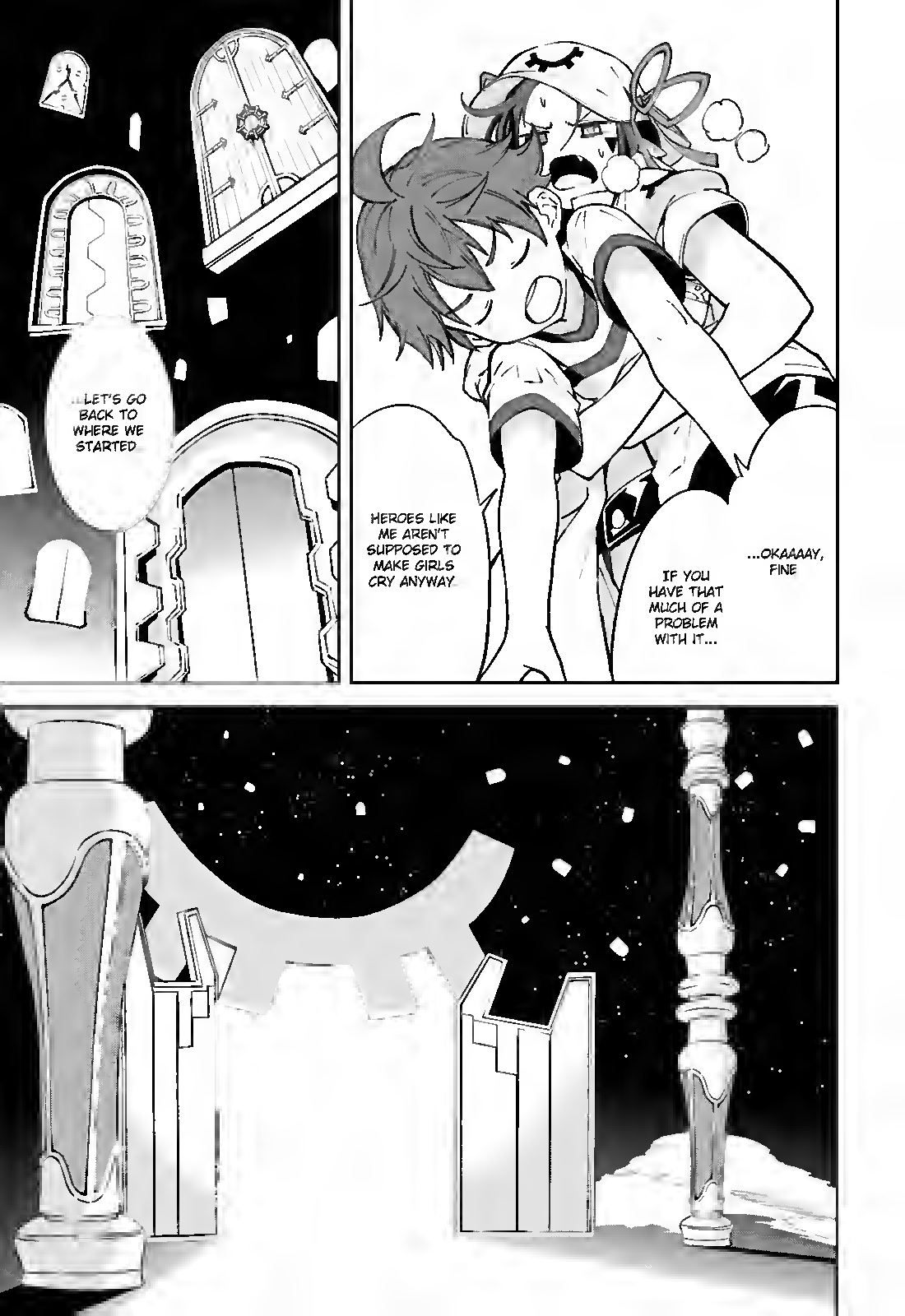
SO HEY! THIS IS BASICALLY LIKE SOME ALTERNATE DIMENSION, RIGHT?!
UH.. SURE.
I GUESS.
AWESOOOOME! I'M A DIMENSIONAL TRAVELER!
I'M GONNA BRAG ALL ABOUT THIS TO ISANA!
.....
フハー
ARE ALL HUMANS THIS LOUD AND ANNOYING?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET BACK, YUMEJI?
JUST PINCH YOUR CHEEK, LIKE THIS—
ギュッ

D'WHAA?
THEN LET'S GET GOING!
GOING?! WHERE?!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?!

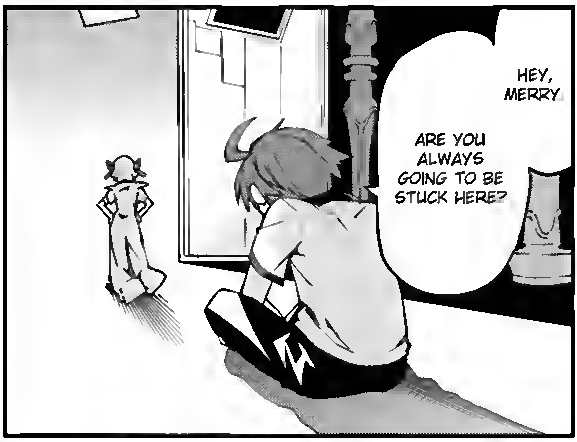
ON AN ADVENTURE! WOOHOO!!
HEY—
STOP—
WAIT!

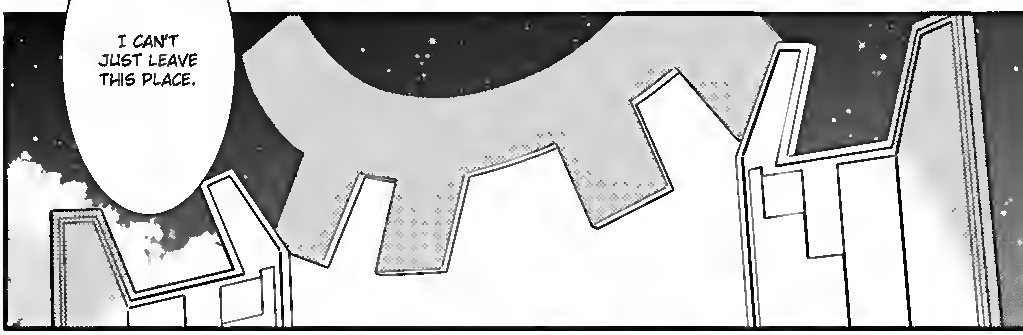
オオオ
SO YOU SAID THESE ARE THE ENTRANCES TO NIGHT-MARES' YARDS, RIGHT?
WHOAAAA.
SO THERE ARE DOORS THIS CLOSE?
I DON'T SEE ANY HARM IN JUST TAKING A PEEK..
DON'T TOUCH IT, YUMEJI!
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE IN THERE—

DON'T. I MEAN IT.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TOUCH ANY OF THESE DOORS SAFELY.
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I DID?
WHAT, SO EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW?
THEN LET'S TEST IT OUT!
I TOLD YOU, NO!!
...I DON'T KNOW.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER BEEN HERE.


...LET'S GO BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED
HEROES LIKE ME AREN'T SUPPOSED TO MAKE GIRLS CRY ANYWAY
IF YOU HAVE THAT MUCH OF A PROBLEM WITH IT...
...OKAAAAY, FINE

I'M THE GATEKEEPER.


HEY, MERRY.
ARE YOU ALWAYS GOING TO BE STUCK HERE?


I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THIS PLACE.

FOR US NIGHTMARES, NONE OF THOSE EXIST.
I'VE BEEN THE NIGHT-MARE YOU SEE RIGHT NOW FOR AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN AROUND.
THIS IS THE ROLE I WAS GIVEN WHEN I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD.

WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THIS JOB?
YOUR DAD? MOM? TEACHER?

BUT WHENEVER I GO TO THE OLD MAN'S PLACE, IT'S ALWAYS REALLY FUN.
AND THAT MEANS THAT I'M PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS THE PERSON LEFT IN CHARGE OF TAKING CARE OF THE HOUSE.
YOU KNOW, MY MOM AND DAD ARE ALWAYS WORKING.
ARE YOU NOT LONELY HERE?
ふぁぁ
WELL, IF THIS IS YOUR JOB, I GUESS THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF IT.
THE GROWN-UPS ALWAYS SAY THE SAME THING.
THE THOUGHT'S NEVER CROSSED MY MIND

THE OLD MAN ALWAYS TELLS ME NOT TO GET IN THE WAY WHEN THE ADULTS ARE WORKING
I'LL GO HOME NOW!
AH—

SO THAT WAS A HUMAN.
A HUMAN FROM "REALITY".
...I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

WHAT DOES "LONELY" MEAN, ANYWAY?

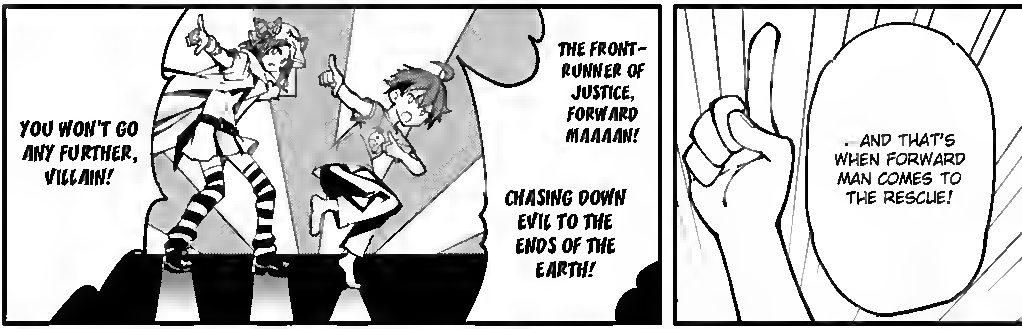
'SUP!
GOOD NIGHT... OR GOOD MORNING?
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

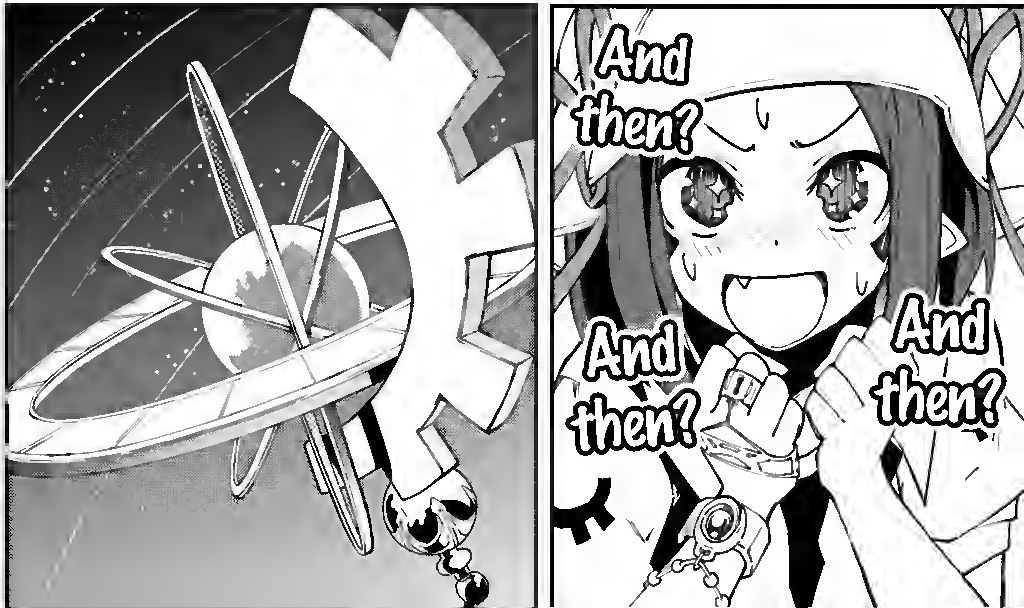
I DUNNO.
I WENT TO BED AND NOW I'M HERE SOMEHOW.

YUMEJI...?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

HEY, YUMEJI.
I TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT MY WORLD LAST TIME YOU CAME.
SO THIS TIME I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOURS.
MINE? HMM... LET'S SEE...

OH YEAH, THAT STUFF'S THE BEST! FIZZY AND GREAT!
I WANNA TRY DRINKING THAT "COLA" STUFF YOU MENTIONED TOO.
DONUTS? WHAT DO THOSE TASTE LIKE?
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS THEY'RE SWEET, FLUFFY, SOMETIMES CRISPY...


YOU WON'T GO ANY FURTHER, VILLAIN!
THE FRONT-RUNNER OF JUSTICE, FORWARD MAAAAN!
CHASING DOWN EVIL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!
...AND THAT'S WHEN FORWARD MAN COMES TO THE RESCUE!


And then?
And then?
And then?

THAT SHINING DOOR THERE... DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE IT'S DRIFTING CLOSER TO THE OTHER DOORS?
HOW WOULD I BE ABLE TO TELL?!
HMM?
HEY, YOU SEE THAT?
THAT'S WEIRD.
I WONDER WHY...
.....
...I THINK THE POSITIONS OF THE DOORWAYS ARE CHANGING BIT BY BIT
WHAT'S UP?
AH—
WAIT!
IF YOU'RE BUSY, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT AND GO HOME!
SO I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR WORK?

WILL YOU COME SEE ME AGAIN?
ギュ
YEAH!
WE'RE FRIENDS, REMEMBER THAT!
HMMM~
...FRIENDS
スゥ…

NMM
HMM
HMM
HEHE—
HEH
HEH
HEH!
しゃが
しゃが
しゃが
くしゃっ
I HOPE HE COMES BACK SOON.
...FRIENDS.
MAYBE HE'S RUBBED OFF ON ME A BIT.

HERE I AM, MERRY!
SORRY, I FORGOT TO BRING MY FORWARD-MAN MASK
I'LL BRING IT FOR SURE NEXT TIME, I PROMISE...

ガシャ
ガシャ
MERRY? WHAT'S WRONG?
ONE OF MY KEYS IS MISSING...
ガシャーン
ゴクッ
WHAT SHOULD I DO?! IF I DON'T HAVE THE KEY, THE NIGHTMARE INSIDE CAN'T SUMMON HUMANS TO ITS YARD!
WHAT HAPPENS IF IT CAN'T?
IT'LL DIE EVENTU-ALLY...!
ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO DIE... BECAUSE OF ME!

WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN IT?
...THE KEYS DON'T JUST DISAPPEAR ON THEIR OWN
AND YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE SET FOOT IN HERE.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
ARE YOU SAYING I TOOK IT AND HID IT?
I DIDN'T DO IT!
I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR YOU!
THIS ISN'T SOME INNOCENT PRANK, YUMEJI!
IF YOU HID IT, THEN BRING IT BACK NOW!!

DON'T LEAVE THAT SPOT!
FINE! I'LL GO LOOK FOR IT!
LET GO OF ME!
ハッ
ふふ…
YUMEJI...?

WHY DID I DO THAT TO HIM?!
HE'S BOUND TO GET LOST HERE ALONE!
I HAVE TO FIND HIM!

IF HE GOT HURT HERE SOMEHOW,
WHERE?
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
IT'D HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HIS BODY BACK IN REALITY!
AND WAS FORCED TO WAKE UP AT THE WRONG TIME,
THAT WAS HIS VOICE!
YUMEJI!!
ドドド
!!
WAAAAAGH!

2.0.2
Yumekui Merry
by Ushio Yoshitaka
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